

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 38 has been extensively amended so as to comply with the formal requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claim 38 has been amended so as to further distinguish over the prior art cited and applied by the Examiner, namely U.S. Patent 6,582,149. It is respectfully submitted that claim 38 and the claims which depend therefrom patentably define over the '149 document for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

Independent claim 38 sets forth the following:

"...wherein the connecting means in a first position lies inside side contours of the socket profile and in a second connecting position projects beyond said socket profile at least on one side and has an outer contour which engages in a retaining manner in an undercut space provided on a second hollow profile...".

The '149 patent fails to teach, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the structure of the connecting means as quoted above. In the '149 patent the simple screws 52 in every turn angle always stay inside the side contours of the socket profile 40. These elements cannot be said to be equivalent to the connecting means as claimed in independent claim 38. There is no hint in the '149 document of providing side contour projecting means on the screws which bring them into engagement with an undercut space of a hollow profile.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and

place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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